



Avondale Preparatory School

Ignite Your Purpose, Become Your Potential

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Dear Parents

Summer Term Newsletter

Welcome back to the Summer Term; I trust that the holiday period has been a restful one for the family. Let me start by welcoming a number of new families to our EYFS Department. We trust that all children will settle quickly and start to enjoy everything that Avondale has to offer. We also extend an incredibly warm Avondale welcome to Petro (Peter) Syvovol and his mother, who are being accommodated by the Patrick Family, having fled the war in Ukraine. Having spoken to all the children in the Prep Department prior to the end of the Spring Term, I know we can make this an incredibly rewarding experience for them both, with lasting memories! Peter will be joining the Year 3/4 class.

As we reflect on the end of the Spring Term, let me thank the Parents Association, and specifically Claire Button, for her organisation of the Cake Sale on the final day, which raised £159.

Congratulations must also go to the Prep Department for their performance of Hans Christian Anderson's 'Snow Queen', in the final days of the Spring Term. It was an appropriately chosen title, given the icy temperatures and snow flurries at the time! The retiring collection brought in £130 that will allow the school to invest further in production equipment to make next year's performance even better. Performing Arts has always been a key part of Avondale Culture; as numbers continue to grow in the main school, we have now diversified and look forward to Years 1 and 2 performing 'Pirates Verses Mermaids' at a matinee performance, in the lead-up to the summer half term break.

No COVID Restrictions

Please be reminded that there are no longer any COVID restrictions in place across the school; this means that assemblies will, once again, be collective affairs in the school hall and parents are most welcome to join us on Fridays for respective class assemblies. We also see a return of the 'Performing Arts Evening' and Year 6 residential trip to Romania in the latter part of the Summer Term.

Whilst there are no preventative measures in place to minimise the spread, please may I remind all parents that children should not be in school if they display symptoms (and should only return once they have recovered); this will ensure staffing levels remain unaffected.

Calendar

The Summer Term calendar shall be made available on the first day back of the term. Please find a draft copy attached. Along with the calendar that the eldest child in the family will take home on Day 1, you will find a letter outlining the procedure for signing in and out at the end of the school day for children in Nursery- Year 6. **Please may we ask that the form for enlisting in after school activities is returned by Wednesday 27 April** so that updated lists can be confirmed quickly. Clubs also start on this day, with the exception of the Pre- Prep Production Club. **This will start on the FIRST DAY BACK (Tuesday 26 April)**; attendance in the Production Club, on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm is expected, to minimise any disruption to classroom learning time. This is a free club.

Summer Fair!

Save the date- Saturday 25 June, 11:30- 2pm. This is Avondale's FIRST school fair and the largest fundraising effort that we have done to date; we are trying to raise enough money to extend our adventure playground with some climbing apparatus. Please see flyer attached; distribution to family and friends (and prospective Avondale families) is very much encouraged. The school has also taken out an advertising campaign to draw the wider community together. There is a great deal of preparation required to make this a success; in this respect, if you would be keen to

support the school in running a stall (or monitoring the bouncy castle), please get in touch with Mrs Amy Worley (amy@avondaleschool.org), who is orchestrating proceedings. We are also calling for all 'good quality' clothing donations to be brought in, along with any larger ticket items for our auction. Thank you to all who have contributed so far.

Summer Uniform and New Thrift Shop Arrangements

I should like to remind you that children return to school on **TUESDAY 26 APRIL**. All children should be in **Summer Uniform**. For girls, this means summer dresses and for boys, short sleeved shirts and shorts. **All children should arrive and depart school in their blazers and hats (with the exception of Nursery children)**. We are proud of our uniform; please may we ask for your support in this respect to avoid any awkward conversations at the gate. Whilst coats won't necessarily be required in the mornings, we recommend that your child brings their coat into school daily in case of wet break times. **Please may we kindly ask that all items of clothing are named; this includes renaming items bought from the Thrift Shop**. This way, we are able to return items of lost clothing to the rightful owner quickly. Any items of unnamed clothing will be placed in our Thrift Shop.

All children in Reception- Year 6 require **white sports socks** for games and the **school house polo shirt**. To aid you in preparing your child, our uniform shop, including thrift shop, shall be open on Monday 25 April from 9:30am-10:30am. Should you not be able to make this time, or require items throughout the course of the term, please contact Mrs Lister in the school office via phone or email.

Parking

Please be reminded about only marked parking bays may be used in the BWM'C for pick up and drop off. I am aware that there are only 23 marked spaces and a good deal more families at Avondale than that! Please find attached, our agreement with the club for our consideration. With the introduction of clubs this term, we are hopeful that pick-ups will be less congested than what I have witnessed in recent months. The real flashpoints to consider, in order to remain onside with our neighbours, are Tuesdays before school, (when deliveries take place) and Friday afternoons, (when patrons will access the club); more so, as lockdown restrictions are eased.

Please also be reminded not to park in front of driveways (or garages) of the cottages on the High St (next to Tots). Your support in this respect will make my job far easier; thank you.

Staffing and School Growth for the 2022-23 Academic Year

Numbers continue to improve across all parts of the school; specifically, in our Pre- Prep and Early Years. In this respect, if you know of any potential families that would benefit from an Avondale education, please may I ask that you direct them to get in touch with the school office. We will be supporting an Open Day in the second half of this term; for those in the service industry, you will be aware that postings are not confirmed until much later in the school calendar and it is not uncommon for the bulk of new families to view us in the last few weeks of the term (or in fact over the summer holiday period). For this reason, the school structure, including staffing and class make-up will not be confirmed until well after half term, when postings materialise.

Notification of Fees for the Academic Year 2022-23

Finally, in line with our policy on providing a term's notice, please find attached the pricing structure of fees for the following academic year (commencing September 2022). You will be aware that inflation continues to rise across the country and, in turn, this has had a significant impact on our operating costs. Consequently, school fees have needed to move, with an increase of approximately 4.5% across the bulk of the school; this is below the current rate of inflation.

I am mindful of the present economic climate. We still remain the most cost- effective independent option in the area. For the bulk of the school, this equates to between £1500 and £3000 less per annum than the nearest school of similar standing; this margin has widened in recent years. Please also find an updated 'Terms and Conditions' and 'Complaints Procedure'.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your children a successful term ahead.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Watson